

# GRAND RAPIDS CHAMBER

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To: Members of the House Labor Committee  
From: Marcus Keech, Director of Government Affairs  
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4354-4357  
Date: May 11, 2023

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On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and our 2,500 members, we oppose House Bills 4354-4357.

House Bill 4354 will have a negative impact our public education system by repealing policy put into place by Public Acts 103 & 260 of 2011. The 2011 changes prioritized an education system that worked best for our students and their educational needs.

The 2011 reforms empower school districts with greater certainty in targeted areas and the flexibility necessary to best serve our students, while also employing educators that demonstrate the skillset to provide high-quality education.

The changes will add a number of new complications to the collective bargaining process and could restrict the adaptability of schools who are already struggling to address post-pandemic issues and falling student populations.

By repealing this policy, you put at risk the success of our youth and their educational futures.

We urge you to remain committed to the education of our students in our public education system, and ask for you to **oppose House Bills 4354-4357.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 616.771.0311.